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DECEMBER 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

MORI PER C03354628

THE ^WASHINGTON POST

FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE IS A REPORT BY CORRESPONDENT JONATHAN RANDAL QUOTING PROMINENT SOURCES CLOSE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AS SAYING THAT THE TALKS HAVE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS SINCE THEIR RESUMPTION LAST MONDAY. BUT NEITHER SIDE SHOWS AT THIS TIME ANY SIGN OF WANTING TO BREAFF OFF WHAT ONE OF THE SOURCES TERMED "PURELY ACADEMIC DISCUSSIONS" ON MAJOR MATTERS. (A-1)

REPORTED IN MOSCOW YESTERDAY. FIVE SOVIET SOLDIERS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN KILLED BEFORE THE CHINESE WERE DRIVEN OFF. THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY DISMISSED THE REPORTS AS BEING NOTHING MORE THAN "SHEER FABRICATION." (A-1)

STAFF WRITER MICHAEL GETLER, IN AN ARTICLE ON THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE, SAYS THAT AMERICANS WHO HAVE WORKED CLOSEST WITH VNAF BELIEVE ITS DEVELOPMENT MARKS ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN VIETNAM. BUT SOME EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE FLOOD OF MATERIAL STILL POURING IN MAY JUST INCREASE THE TENDENCY TO RELY ON THE U.S. RATHER THAN TO DO BETTER MAINTENANCE WORK. (A-15)

AN EDITORIAL ON THE PROGRESS OF HIJACKING NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA COMMENTS THAT "UNQUESTIONABLY, HEMISPHERIC ACCOMMODATION WITH HAVANA COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FANILITATING THE MORE ACTIVE AND HELPFUL SECOND-TERM APPROACH TO LATIN AMERICA THAT WE HOPE MR. NIXON HAS IN MIND." (A-22)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

EGYPT'S PARLIAMENT HAS MADE AN UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK ON A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT AND QUESTIONED EGYPT'S PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR WITH ISRAEL. THE PARLIAMENT DECLARED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FAILED TO DEAL FRANKLY WITH MAJOR ISSUES, AMONG WHICH WAS EGYPT'S STAND ON MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO PREVENT FURTHER SHIPMENT OF AMERICAN ARMS TO ISRAEL. (A-3)

PREMIER TANAKA'S LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS BEEN RETURNED TO POWER WITH A SOLID VICTORY IN NATIONWIDE ELECTIONS. WITH RACES SETTLED IN TWO-THIRDS OF THE 491 HOUSE SEATS BEING ELECTED, THE LIBERAL-DEMOCRATS HAVE WON 210 SEATS. IN ADDITION, NINE INDEPENDENTS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC RANKS WERE ELECTED. THE SOCIALIST PARTY HAS WON 83 SEATS AND APPEARS TO BE STAGING A COMEBACK FROM THE SEVERE DEFEAT IT SUFFERED IN 1969. THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS 10 SEATS, THE KOMEITO HAS NINE, AND THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY HAS 8 SEATS. (A-1)

ANTHONY LEWIS COMPARES YOUR APPROACH TO VIETNAM AS STATED IN YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE JANUARY 1969 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND YOUR PRESENT NEGOTIATING POSITION. HE REPORTS THAT IN 1969, YOU WERE SKEPTICAL OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT OR A CEASE-FIRE. YOU CONCLUDED THEN THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SEEK A "STAGED WITHDRAWAL BY BOTH SIDES." IT APPEARS NOW THAT THE TERMS OF THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT MEET YOUR EARLIER TERMS IN PART. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL AND THE U.S. HAS ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF A CEASE-FIRE, YOU SUCCEEDED IN SEPARATING THE MILITARY FROM THE POLITICAL TRACKS. THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT WOULD PULL U.S. FORCES OUT, WHILE THE POLITICAL FUTURE IN VIETNAM IS OPEN AND THIEU REMAINS IN POWER. WHAT YOU DID NOT FORESEE WAS THE COST OF MEETING SOME OF YOUR AIMS IN TERMS OF MEN AND MONEY. "IT IS TOO LATE TO AVOID THE COSTS NOW...WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT KISSINGER AND HIS PRINCIPAL REMEMBER WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS AS THEY WEIGH PEACE IN THE BALANCE NOW." (A-39)